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DE RUEHAD #0187 0421338
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 111338Z FEB 08
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0407
INFO RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 7586
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 1698
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 1259
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0161
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0622

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 000187

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E.O. 12958: 02/11/2018

TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM KDEM EFIN EINV LE AE
SUBJECT: UAE MFA ON SUPPORT FOR LEBANON TRIBUNAL

REFS: A) QUINN-DANIN E-MAILS (FEBRUARY 8, 2008)
B) ABU DHABI 168
C) SECSTATE 10786

Classified by CDA Martin Quinn, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) On February 10, Charge queried UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammed Hussain al-Sha'ali about the apparent UAE commitment of \$5 million to the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon (ref A). Al-Sha'ali said he thought the commitment was firm, but wanted to know the precise mechanism through which the financial transfer should be made. He also requested information on other countries' donations; the Charge noted that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were also making significant contributions.

¶2. (C) Comment: Decisions of this nature are always taken by leaders from the ruling family, in this case Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed (Abz) al-Nahyan. MFA is often not privy to the decision itself, and not necessarily brought into confidence later on. Al-Sha'ali committed to follow up to confirm the fund transfer, which we recommend the Department simultaneously pursue in New York. A bank routing number may be required. End comment.

QUINN